

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 /053 W

-----261026 057683 /14

R 260557Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2988

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPT FOR EUR/SOV; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJ: CONGENOFF MEETS LITHUANIAN SSR FOREIGN MINISTER

1. AT BEGINNING OF OTHERWISE ROUTINE AND USEFUL VISIT TO VILNIUS TO FURTHER CONTACTS IN CULTURAL AND PRESS FIELDS, BPAO USHERED RATHER ABRUPTLY AND WITHOUT BEING FOREWARNED INTO OFFICE OF NEW FOREIGN MINISTER VYTAUTAS ZENKEVICIUS. BPAO HAD BEEN DISCUSSING PROGRAM OF VISITS SCHEDULED BY MINISTRY WITH MINISTER'S AIDES.

2. AFTER NOTING HIS PREVIOUS FOREIGN SERVICE EXPERIENCE FROM 1962-1969 IN SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO U.S. AS PART OF SOVIET UN DELEGATION, ZENKEVICIUS REMARKED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN HAD SENT LETTER TO LITHUANIAN LEGATION IN WASHINGTON STATING THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT CHANGE NON-RECOGNITION POLICY OF PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS TOWARD LITHUANIAN INCORPORATION INTO USSR. WHEN BPAO RESPONDED HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH EXCHANGE, ZENKEVICIUS DID NOT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER.

3. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, BPAO DECIDED IT WOULD BE IMPOLITIC TO  
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REFUSE TO SEE MINISTER BUT MADE POINT OF INFORMING MINISTER'S AIDES AFTERWARD THAT HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF ILL-USED SINCE U.S. PRACTICE IN BALTIC REPUBLICS RE MEETING TOP-LEVEL MINISTRY OFFICIALS WELL KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED. BPAO FURTHER INSISTED THAT NO MENTION BE MADE OF ENCOUNTER IN ANY PRESS RELEASE ON HIS VISIT TO VILNIUS. FYI. SUCH RELEASES ARE ROUTINELY ISSUED.  
END FYI. MINISTRY OFFICIAL PROMISED THAT LATTER WOULD BE DONE

AND LATER ON ACTUALLY CLEARED RUSSIAN TEXT OF RELEASE WITH BPAO.

4. BPAO DISCUSSED INCIDENT WITH CONSUL GENERAL BY TELEPHONE SHORTLY AFTER IT OCCURRED AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT NO FURTHER ACTION WAS NEEDED AND THAT VISIT SHOULD CONTINUE AS PLANNED.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT ZENKIVICIUS' ACTION PROBABLY EXPLAINED BY FACT THAT, AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, HE HAD ROUTINELY RECEIVED CONGEN VISITORS TO LITHUANIA, AND THAT HIS AGGRESSIVE PERSONALITY GOT THE BETTER OF HIM. AS AN EXPERIENCED SOVIET DIPLOMAT, HE MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT HIS INSISTANCE ON SEEING CONGEN-OFF WAS OUT-OF-BOUNDS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, MAKE ANY EFFORT TO PURSUE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEYOND ITEM NOTED ABOVE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS AND BPAO'S INSISTANCE THERE BE NO PUBLICITY ABOUT THE MEETING SHOULD INSURE THAT THERE IS NO DAMAGE TO OUR TRADITIONAL POSITION ON BALTIC STATES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, RECEIVING INFORMATION ON HARTMAN LETTER TO LITHUANIAN LEGATION AND OTHER SUCH MATTERS AFFECTING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BALTIC REPUBLICS.  
NEUBERT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** CONGENOFF MEETS LITHUANIAN SSR FOREIGN MINISTER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US, (ZENKEVICIUS, VYTAUTAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009